



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 746

Chairperson: Don Pederson
Committee: Appropriations
Date of Hearing: February 28, 2005

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 746 creates the Civil Legal Service Fund to provide civil legal services to eligible low-income persons. Legal Aid offices are currently located in Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Scottsbluff, Norfolk and Bancroft.

The State Court Administrator shall distribute the funds in the form of grants. Any money in the fund at the end of a calendar year, shall be distributed in the following calendar year. Money in the fund shall be invested by the state investment officer as provided in the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

LB 746 defines a civil legal service provider. An independent certified public accountant shall annually audit the accounts of each grant recipient and results of such audit shall be provided to the State Court Administrator. Grant funds will not replace other funds appropriated or awarded by a state agency to provide civil legal services.

The State Court Administrator shall establish guidelines for submission of applications and determine which legal services providers shall receive grants. Grant recipients shall use the grant funds to provide free civil legal services to eligible low-income persons.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Don Pederson